British International Investment

FMO Entrepreneurial Development Bank

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Invest for Impact Nepal

Invest for Impact Nepal is a platform dedicated to connecting Development Finance Institutions and Impact Investors with high-impact opportunities in Nepal through Financial Institutions and Private Equity Funds.

NEWSLETTER

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FMO CEO Participates in Climate & Green Taxonomy Seminar in Nepal

Invest for Impact Nepal (IIN), in partnership with the Nepal Bankers' Association (NBA), organised a groundbreaking seminar on **Integrating Climate Finance and Green Finance Taxonomy into Nepal's Banking Industry on 26th September 2024**. Distinguished speakers at the event included Mr. Michael Jongeneel, CEO of FMO - Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank, Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) and H.E. Dr. Danielle Meuwly, Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal.

The FMO CEO deliberated on Nepal's need for investments to support sustainable growth in key sectors like renewable energy. He affirmed FMO's commitment to support this vision, while stressing the need to strengthen Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards to build a truly green and sustainable economy.

Ms. Yulanda Chung, former Managing Director at DBS Singapore and Sustainability Specialist at Standard Chartered Bank UK, provided an insightful presentation on climate risks in banking sector, risk management in lending portfolios and operations, climate opportunities for Nepal, and Nepal's emerging green taxonomy.

The NRB Governor in his remarks highlighted NRB's vision of a sustainable and climate resilient banking industry that aligns with the country's development goals. He also emphasised the need to enhancing the expertise of banking professionals in climate risk management and sustainable finance through such learning and training programmes. This was followed by a dynamic panel discussion featuring experts from FMO, Nepal Rastra Bank, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Cadmus International, and Nepal SBI Bank. The panel explored strategies and opportunities for integrating sustainable finance into Nepal's banking sector.

The seminar was attended by over 200 representatives from regulatory bodies, financial institutions, development finance institutions (DFIs), and development partners, igniting dialogue on integrating climate and green finance. It also highlighted opportunities to position Nepal's financial sector for green growth and resilience.

During the event NBA also officially launched its Sustainable Finance Department, to further support Nepal's banking sector toward a low-carbon, greener, and more resilient economy.

CEO Masterclass on Climate Finance

In a significant achievement for NBA, the Climate Finance Masterclass Training was successful in bringing together CEOs from 15 leading banks for the first time. Aimed at deepening their understanding of climate-related risks and opportunities, the event marks a pivotal step toward integrating sustainable practices into the nation's financial industry.

The Masterclass was expertly led by Ms. Yulanda Chung, former Managing Director at DBS Singapore and Sustainability Specialist at Standard Chartered Bank UK, along with Ms. Alison Snellen, Principal Consultant at IBIS Consulting Singapore. They provided invaluable insights and international best practices from financial markets, enhancing the strategic approach of the participating executives.

This exclusive, closed-door session featured interactive discussions on innovative green finance instruments such as green bonds and sustainability-linked loans. The CEOs explored the development and application of green finance taxonomies aimed at standardizing sustainable finance practices across Nepal's banking sector. They also navigated the regulatory landscape and engaged in assessing emerging climate opportunities for financial institutions.

During the session, executives shared industry-specific challenges and delved into solutions for addressing climate risks. The high level of engagement and knowledge exchange was highly appreciated by the participants, underscoring the event's usefulness.

The Masterclass stands as a major achievement for NBA in promoting climate finance and sustainable practices, signaling a commitment among Nepal's top banking leaders to foster a greener and more resilient economy.

Yulanda Chung, a member of the Board of Trustees at Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), discusses with New Business Age the challenges and opportunities for Nepal's banking sector in adopting climate finance and implementing a green finance taxonomy. Click here to read the full article.

IIN Partners with Chhimek Laghubitta to Support its Investment Readiness

Invest for Impact Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chhimek Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited (CLBSL) to elevate client protection standards and strengthen impact-driven practices at the core of their operations. Through tailored training and support, the partnership aims to equip Chhimek's team to prioritise client needs and social outcomes effectively.

In partnership with Cerise+SPTF, Invest for Impact Nepal is supporting Chhimek in its investment readiness process. This initiative will align CLBSL with global best practices through comprehensive assessments of policies & practices, action plan development, and capacity-building workshops. The partnership aims to help CLBSL achieve Client Protection Pathway Certification, ensuring robust client protection, improved client engagement, and sustainable outcomes for both the institution and its clients.

IIN Partners with Laxmi Sunrise Bank to Integrate Gender Focused Financing

Invest for Impact Nepal and Laxmi Sunrise Bank Limited (LSBL) signed an MoU to deepen promotion of Women Entrepreneur Financing. This collaboration aims to seek innovative measures in terms of service offering and products that will help the bank reach and serve women entrepreneurs more effectively.

Through this partnership, LSBL and Invest for Impact Nepal will work to drive a transformative approach to gender-focused financing. By integrating gender-sensitive practices across its operations, LSBL seeks to overcome existing barriers women face in accessing finance and create products, policies, and systems that better serve their needs. Additionally, the collaboration is committed to strengthen LSBL's internal capacity, aligning its practices with international gender financing standards to create more equitable access to finance and support broader economic participation for women in Nepal.

Second Cohort of ESG Certified Course Commenced for Banking Professionals

Building on the success of the first cohort, where 40 professionals completed the ESG-certified training, the second cohort has officially begun its intensive 60-hour course on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and sustainable finance.

This cohort includes 40 banking professionals from 12 financial institutions (11 Commercial Banks and 1 Development Bank), further strengthening the sector's capacity to integrate ESG practices. The training is being facilitated by Invest for Impact Nepal in collaboration with the Nepal Bankers' Association, and delivered in partnership with Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona School of Management (UPF-BSM), Spain. The training is expected to conclude by December 2024.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to equip Nepal's banking industry with the tools and expertise required to meet the rising domestic demand for ESG and sustainable finance solutions.

IIN Expands Digital Presence with New You Tube Channel

Invest for Impact Nepal has launched a new You Tube channel, adding to its growing suite of media platforms that includes its official website, LinkedIn page, and Twitter handle. These platforms continuously share knowledge products and programme updates with the key stakeholders.

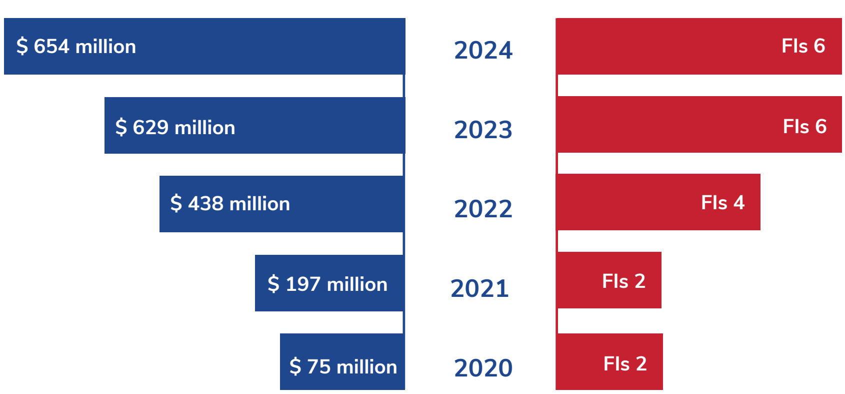
On its new YouTube channel, IIN recently released an exclusive interview with Mr. Ajay Rao, Managing Director for South Asia at the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC). In the interview, Mr. Rao discusses DFC's evolving investment journey in Nepal.

Click here to watch the full episode.

Expanding Investors, Investees and Investments

Development Finance Institutions (DFI) & Impact Investors' Investments in the **Financial Industry**

Investments in the Number of **Financial Institutions**



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